

Egg Harbor Township Board of Recreation Commissioners Meeting
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 **7:00pm**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order to Chairperson Rispoli at 7:05 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet read the Open Public Meetings Act statement.

IV. Roll Call:

Toni Rispoli, Chair – Present	Kevin Stetser – Present
William Warrell, Vice Chair - Present	Amy Smith – Present (arrived at 8:22)
Charles Gallagher - Present	Paul Trinkle – Present
Paul Weldon - Present	Christine Gras (Alt. 1) – Present (Alt. 2)

V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting March 14, 2018

Motion	To approve the 3/14/18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Charlie Gallagher
Vote	Motion carried 7-0.

VI. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups

EHT YO

Mark Mensh, 2 Dockside Drive, had two questions on behalf of the Youth Organization. He asked if the Township can remediate the asphalt pad near the fieldhouse building, at the entrance along the fence to the football fields, as this area is prone to flooding. Rick Audet stated the Township had done a repair last year near this location, we would have to circle back and assess how the area looks after heavy rains. Rick said he will definitely look at the issue with public works and perform a repair as necessary.

Mark also asked if any of the football fields are planned to be closed in the fall. Rick Audet answered that no fields are scheduled to be closed at this time, however he and the public works grounds supervisor will assess the fields after the lacrosse season and determine their status. The decision to possibly close any practice football fields for the fall will be made at a later date.

Dorothy Madamba, 802 Jonathan Court, stated that sign-ups for YO junior color guard have begun and at this time their numbers are very low, they have 4 signed up right now. Ms. Madamba requested that the Commission allow non-residents to sign up in order to field a squad. Ms. Madamba explained that all kids participate equally, there is no playing time component as there is in other sports. It was explained that the Atlantic League board has approved non-residents on various teams for color guard, Atlantic Cheer has its own association that includes color guard. She said she would rather not combine with Mays Landing team, but would like to draw some non-residents onto the EHT team. Toni Rispoli stated that Parks and Recreation Department does a twirling program, perhaps the color guard could join that program or invite some of these girls to their program. Dorothy stated that drill and color guard are two distinctly separate activities, and that they need ten girls to make it viable.

Bill Warrell explained that in past years, girls who got cut from cheer would enroll in drill team, however cheer no longer has cuts. Kevin Stetser stated that the YO color guard is a good precursor to the high school band and color guard program. Toni Rispoli asked the Commission if they want to allow non-residents in color guard that they can

consider it, however YO and drill team coordinator needs to first complete their registration process, perform their due diligence to try to register enough girls for the program with all residents first, and then Ms. Madamba can come back to the Commission and report on the status. Christine Gras stated that they need to promote it more, she hasn't seen it in the community and asked if the cost of the program is a prohibitive factor. Rick Audet stated that a flyer would have to go through Tony Savastano in order to be sent to the schools with permission from the Superintendent's office. Tony Savastano stated that Atlantic Cheer board is ok with color guard taking in non-residents. Toni Rispoli stated that we need to know their numbers at the end of May and that the Commission would do its best to help.

Tony Savastano asked about the recently installed asphalt paths in proximity to the football fieldhouse. He stated his concern about the loss of parking spaces behind the building and asked if we could remove some trees that are in that area to open up more parking. Rick Audet explained that the new asphalt paths work was part of the recent work to improve accessibility in all areas of Veteran's Park and was funded by a Community Development Block Grant. Rick Audet will look into the matter about possible removal of trees.

Rick Audet stated that we received a written report from the YO audit committee for the 2017 financials. Toni Rispoli reminded Tony Savastano that the Commission needs all bank statements and receipts in addition to the paperwork that was turned in. Toni Rispoli asked some questions and discussed various items on the profit/loss report. Christine Gras asked about the revenue and expenses for the end of season banquet for YO, showing an \$8000 shortfall. Tony Savastano discussed how the banquets work, how all parents pay \$25 each and give checks to YO for the banquet. The expenses shown cover the facility costs, player gifts, trophies, etc. Dorothy Madamba stated that a portion of the fundraising funds goes towards the banquet. Tony Savastano stated that YO may consider bowling or a different type of banquet for the Taxi and Pee Wee squads to bring costs down. He also stated that he would get the books to the Commission when he receives them back from the audit subcommittee.

EHT BMX

Stan Russ, 3 Patrician Terrace, informed the Commission that EHT BMX is up and running for the season. April 13 was their first big race of the season with over 600 riders. He answered a question explaining that riders are registered through USABMX membership and that their software helps organize and determine the motos. Stan stated that they have a busy April and May planned. For community outreach, the organization is participating in the EHT Community Pride Day clean-up, Galloway Schools Wellness Day, Swift and Miller Schools family fairs, and the Memorial Day parade. Stan mentioned there was an incident in which two mothers were involved in an altercation at the Jack Forst Race, police were notified and responded to the park. Stan wrote a letter to BMX and one of the participants is to be suspended for six months. Stan said they intend to apply to host a BMX Nationals Race next year, it would be held during summer break, would be a 3 or 4 day event, and they would need overnight camping in the park. Rick Audet stated that they would need to do the full special event permit process. Toni Rispoli stated that BMX should approach local hotels for special blocks of rooms rates.

Jr. Wrestling Club

Christine Gras asked the Commission to confirm their policy on drinking at sponsored youth organizations banquets. Toni Rispoli stated that we do not want them drinking at banquets. Christine stated that she attended a recent Jr. Wrestling Club meeting and some members were arguing that it was allowed, so there may not be a full understanding of our policy within our sponsored groups. Christine opined that she doesn't understand why there has to be drinking by certain adults within a three hour span while you are attending a youth sports event. Toni stated that she does not want the adults drinking in front of the children. Kevin Stetser stated that it is not allowed at the high school level. Toni Rispoli stated that there is to be no drinking in front of the kids and that she will reiterate it at the August president's meeting.

EHT Travel Basketball

Cameron Bell, 8 Pawn Court, spoke to the Commission and asked a question he stated he thinks he knows the answer to. He asked if there are any rules and regulations on coaching in a sponsored youth sports organization that speaks to when there is a conflict of interest with a coach in terms of them being employed by a private or non-EHT school. Mr. Bell posed this question in light of the EHT Travel Basketball Association deciding at its meeting tonight to allow the Holy Spirit head basketball coach to coach one of the travel teams and this is a conflict of interest. Bill

Warrell answered that we do it by residency and kid safe list only as far as eligibility to coach. Cam stated that it is then apparently up to the organization to decide and then be a parent's prerogative on whether or not to participate. Kevin Stetser stated that we need to circle the wagons and promote our Township and our high school better, we can't allow the non-EHT coaches to continue to come in to our youth organizations and poach our players and recruit them to outside schools. He explained that we have a higher percentage of kids that we lose to non-Township schools than other towns, and that other town's youth leagues do a much better job than us currently of fostering an environment where they promote their local high school to all their players and do not allow the outside influence of private or out of town schools to infiltrate their ranks.

Christine Gras stated that we could perhaps only allow such coaches to coach in the lower levels. Cameron Bell agreed stating that it is much different to coach in grades 6, 7, 8, and that it is a problem for the Township. Christine Gras said it starts with the organizations to decide on the environment they foster and rules they wish to set. Cameron Bell suggested that one way to combat it is that we need to coach the parents to be better coaches in the organizations to fill the coaching roles and also to organize coaching clinics for parents. Amy Smith stated that there are agencies at the state level that can bring coaching clinics to the Township to perhaps assist in building up our parent coaches. Kevin Stetser stated that community pride needs to improve. Cameron Bell stated that a cultural pride for EHT High School and the Eagles is not where it should be.

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Old Business

a. Revision to 2018 Capital Projects Plan

The 2018 Capital Projects budget was discussed. The Township Administrator is seeking a \$100,000 line item in our Capital Budget for the engineering / design work of the Tony Canale Park fields expansion project. The Recreation Commission stated their opposition to allocating those funds in 2018 to that project. The Commission stated that they do not wish to give up that money and that it should go into our community center building HVAC system or for athletic fields improvement in our parks. Toni Rispoli stated that it is our responsibility to take care of what we have now, and to do the best for the safety of the kids who use our current facilities. The Commission voted to complete the following Capital projects for 2018:

- Veteran's Park North Hockey Court New Lighting
- Bargaintown Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing
- EHT Community Center Security Camera System Installation
- Veteran's Park Baseball F8 F9 Replacement of Field Fencing
- Tony Canale Park Amphitheatre Grounds Lighting
- Bargaintown/Tony Canale Tennis Backboards Installation
- Veteran's Park BMX Track Security Cameras

There was a discussion on the Township engineer and why we keep using them for our field projects when projects repeatedly fail and have to be redone. The Commission stated their wish that a different engineering firm could be used for future projects.

Motion	To authorize the Recreation Commission chair to write a letter to the Township Administrator stating that the Commission does not wish to fund the Tony Canale Park field expansion projects' engineering/architectural costs with its Capital Funds. Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Charlie Gallagher
Vote	Motion carried 7-0.

b. 2017 Capital Projects (ongoing)

Rick Audet updated the Commission on the two remaining capital projects from 2017 that are in process. The hockey court asphalt work is due to be completed by the end of the month. The softball field project is ongoing as well, the sod installation is scheduled for early May.

IX. Use of Parks Facility Requests

None.

X. Director's Report

None.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Correspondence

EHT Youth Group Minutes

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| A. Baseball Association – 2/1, 3/1/2018 | F. Soccer Club – last received 2/13/18 |
| B. BMX – 2/5, 3/26, 4/16/2018 | G. Street Hockey Association – 2/5, 3/12, 3/26/18 |
| C. Youth Organization – last received 12/6/17 | H. Travel Basketball – 4/12/18 |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – 2/27/18 | I. Youth Softball – last received 1/14/18 |
| E. Lacrosse – last received 2/6/18 | |

Handouts

- A. EHT YO 2018 Board of Directors list
- B. EHT YO – 2017 financials
- C. EHT Girls Softball 2017 financials
- D. EHT Girls Softball February, March 2018 bank statements (on file in office)
- E. EHT Girls Softball - game schedules, coaches list, board contact list
- F. EHT Soccer Club – practice schedules, rosters, coach list
- G. Lacrosse Association – practice schedule, game schedule, coaches list
- H. Public Works Buildings and Grounds summary 2/28/18 - 4/18/18

Toni Rispoli stated that the Jr. Wrestling Club has to correct their monthly financial report. Christine was asked to relay this to them. Amy Smith reported that lacrosse is having a good season and they are doing a good job running their program.

Tabled Matters

None

XIII. Public Comment

Jamie Gillespie, 511 Glenn Avenue, introduced himself to the Commission and acknowledged that he is the President of EHT Baseball Association, but indicated he would like to speak to the Commission on a personal level. He attended the Travel Basketball Board meeting this evening and there was a vote and discussion on the permissibility in him coaching a travel team. Jamie stated that he coached the grade 3 and 4 travel team and stepped down due to other obligations during the 5th grade season. At the Travel Basketball Board meeting, for the 6th grade team, one head coach and two travel coaches were proposed to the board. He stated that Cameron Bell was asked to speak on it and Cameron indicated that it is a conflict of interest for Jamie Gillespie to coach as he is the head basketball coach at Holy Spirit. Jamie Gillespie stated that he wishes to be in it only for the benefit of EHT and that he has always tried to serve the Township. He said the head coach has always been allowed to pick their assistants. Jamie further stated that he is speaking to the Commission as a dad of an 11 year old, he feels he is being discriminated against, and that he has only altruistic reasons for wanting to coach. Jamie stated his opinion that things that were said at the travel basketball board meeting were unfair, he wishes to only be an assistant, and that he would make around 80% of the team's activities.

Paul Trinkle informed the Commission that Rob Fishbein was voted in as head coach of the team, Chris Ford was voted on and approved by the board as an assistant, and the vote on Jamie Gillespie to be approved as an assistant resulted in a tie.

Toni Rispoli requested that the Parks and Recreation Director send a letter to all members of the Travel Basketball Board and require them to attend a meeting with us prior to our next Commission meeting. The Commission reviewed the Travel Basketball bylaws which state: "Head coaches will select their own assistant coaches."

VIII. Adjournment

Motion	To adjourn meeting of Recreation Commission. Motion made by Charlie Gallagher Seconded by Paul Weldon
Vote	Motion carried 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Minutes as heard by Rick Audet, Parks and Recreation Director

Toni Rispoli, Chairperson

Rick Audet, Parks and Recreation Director

These minutes were approved at the May 16, 2018 Recreation Commission Meeting.
